



21 April 2026

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Wildlife Research Permit Application for North Slave Region - Wolf Den Surveys

Please find attached a Wildlife Research Permit application for a project entitled “**Wolf den surveys, pup counts, and camera deployments**” submitted by James Hodson, ECC, GNWT.

The objective of this project is to continue aerial surveys to locate wolf den sites in early spring, and evaluate the survival and recruitment of wolf pups in summer and fall. This project is a continuation of wolf den surveys that were completed from 2007-2012 and 2023-2025 to 1) evaluate how the abundance and occupancy of wolf dens changes over time with changes in barren-ground caribou populations, and 2) evaluate the impact of a recent 5-yr management program to increase ground-based harvest of wolves. For wolves, newborn pups typically make up the largest age class in the pack, thus pup production, survival, and recruitment into the population are important in determining trends in wolf abundance. Tundra-denning wolves tend to locate their dens on eskers or similar gravel/sand landforms formed by melting glaciers and often return to the same site each year, providing an opportunity to estimate trends in wolf numbers by tracking changes in wolf den site usage (occupancy) from aerial surveys. Attached is a map of the wolf den survey area covered in 2023 and 2024, as well as active wolf dens documented from 1996-2012. Upcoming wolf den surveys will focus on the same areas.

A recommendation form is attached for your response. **Please email this form to james_hodson@gov.nt.ca by May 15, 2026.** If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at (867) 767-9238 ext. 53254. We appreciate your ongoing support of cooperative wildlife management.

Sincerely,

James Hodson
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